

Towards Zero Waste

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Photo by T. Nakamura (Unko Museum, Tokyo, Japan)

A. Background: Programme Direction

Programme Objective:

To improve waste and wastewater management through, inter alia, minimizing material input and waste and wastewater generation, circular processes, safe recovery of secondary raw materials and progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites.

Programme Outcomes:

- *Municipal Solid Waste and Wastewater management policies and legislation/regulations are established at the national and local levels*
- *High impact sectors adopt circular economy approaches to reduce wastes*

Programme Outputs (key areas of work):

- *Municipal solid waste and wastewater management*
- *Circularity in impact sectors*
- *Monitored progress*
- *Financial resources*
- *Awareness raising and partnership*



Photo by T. Nakamura. The Hague, The Netherlands

A. Background: Envisaged Impact and Strategic Coherence

Envisaged impact of programme:

- *Municipal Solid Waste and Wastewater management policies and legislation/regulations*
- *Phasing out of harmful practices, e.g., Open-dumping*
- *High impact sectors adopt circular economy*

Synergies with other programmes within MTS:

- *Circularity in sectors (plastic waste, e-waste, mining waste, textile waste)*
- *Chemicals and Health (wastewater, chemicals in waste streams)*
- *Science-to-policy (waste indicators and data)*
- *Environmental governance (waste legislation, waste trade/trafficking)*



Photo by T. Nakamura. UNON waste segregation system

A. Background: Contribution to MTS and PoW

Contribution to MTS Outcomes (PoW 2025 Outcomes):

- *3B: Waste management is improved, including through circular processes, safe recovery of secondary raw materials and progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites burning*

Contribution to PoW Direct Outcomes:

- *3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.11, 3.13,*



Photo by T. Nakamura. Wongpanit company recycling centre, Thailand (permission obtained)

B. Project Portfolio: Overview

Description of Project Portfolio:

Stand-alone project

- *Integrated solid waste management towards zero waste (including addressing open dumping and open burning and conflict/disaster debris)*

Components in other projects

- *Integrated wastewater management (the source-to-sea project)*
- *Reducing and recycling plastic waste (the plastic high impact sector project)*
- *Reducing and recycling e-waste (the electronic high impact sector project)*
- *Waste data and indicators (the environmental statistics project)*

Synergies to achieve programme objectives:

- *Addressing cross cutting issues, such as Extended Producer Responsibility, Private Public Partnership*
- *Waste reduction action in the sectors through sector-based project*
- *Waste related data and information sharing among the projects*

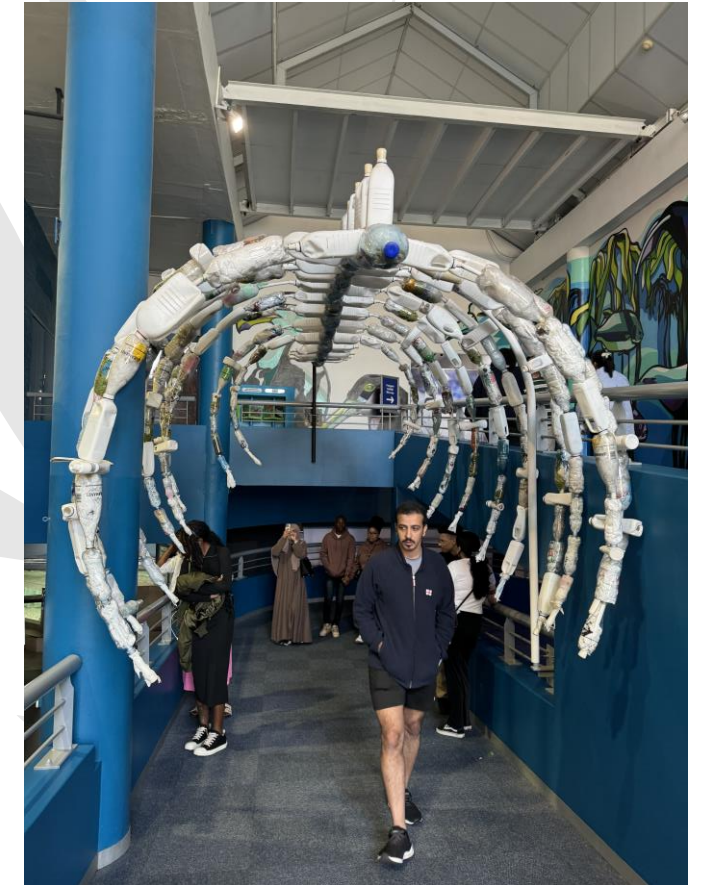


Photo by T. Nakamura. Plastic waste art, Cape Town Aquarium, South Africa

B. Project Portfolio: Illustrative Example

Project: Integrated Solid Waste Management towards zero waste

- *National and/or city waste management strategies implemented.*
- *Global, regional and national waste management partnerships*
- *Knowledge on integrated solid waste management is generated, disseminated and shared.*



Photo by T. Nakamura, Textile collection box. Istanbul, Türkiye

C. Results Achieved: Circular Economy Approach To Waste Management – Example of Lesotho

Result:

- *Adoption of the National Solid Waste Management Strategy, incorporating circular economy approach, such as recycling business development and EPR schemes, private sector engagement*
- *Draft waste and plastic management bill in Lesotho*
- *Plastic Levy (with an initial target of plastic diaper) and single use plastic bag ban*



All Photos by T. Nakamura. Waste collection, management and recycling Lesotho

C. Results Achieved – Zero Waste in The Caribbean Island States

Results:

*Demonstration of the zero waste approaches
(linked with GA Resolution on Zero Waste)*

*Ministerial declaration, including sustainable
financing, private sector involvement, and
innovative solutions to drive the circular economy
and reduce waste generation (October 2024)*

Results:

Waste management policies and regulations
(Saint Lucia, Dominica);

Financing *(Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago,
Dominica, Barbados, Saint Lucia; Saint Kitts &
Nevis)*

Waste and Circular Economy Data hub
(UNEP/IADB).

*Extended Producer Responsibility system
development (Suriname, Barbados)*



Photo by J. Pon

C. Results Achieved – Knowledge Sharing And Learning on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Results:

- *Knowledge sharing on experiences of the Extended Producer Responsibility*
- *Identification of good regional models and practices*
- *Prompting some countries to initiate, further development and revise EPR systems (Peru, Jordan)*
- *Better knowledge and understanding for the member States to provide input to global/regional discussion on the subject.*

Results:

To date UNEP supported the establishment of Extended Producer Responsibility systems of the following countries: Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Nigeria, Kenya, Lesotho, Suriname, Barbados among the 50 plus countries that are establishing or have established the EPR systems



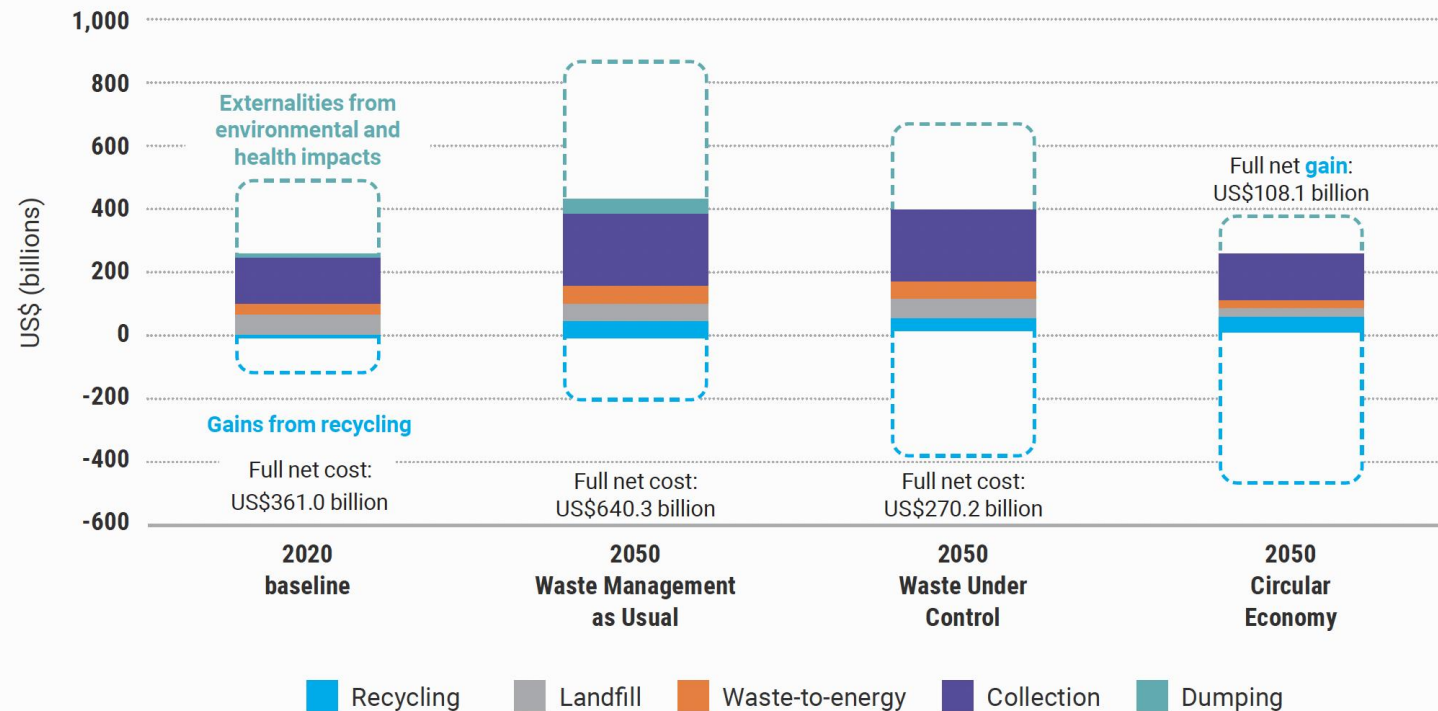
Photo by T. Nakamura. Waste collection bin in Montevideo, Uruguay under the Uruguay Extended Producer Responsibility

D. Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned:

- *Waste generation is increasing while waste management capacity is still limited. Waste reduction, through sustainable consumption and production or zero waste approaches, is important.*
- *There are many good examples of sustainable waste management, but these are not properly shared or used.*

Overall cost of global waste management under the three scenarios (US\$ 2020).



From Global Waste Management 2024



Changes Made:

- *Design of national interventions includes producers and consumers*
- *Under this programme, a waste management knowledge framework will be developed in cooperation with the partners.*

E. Way Forward

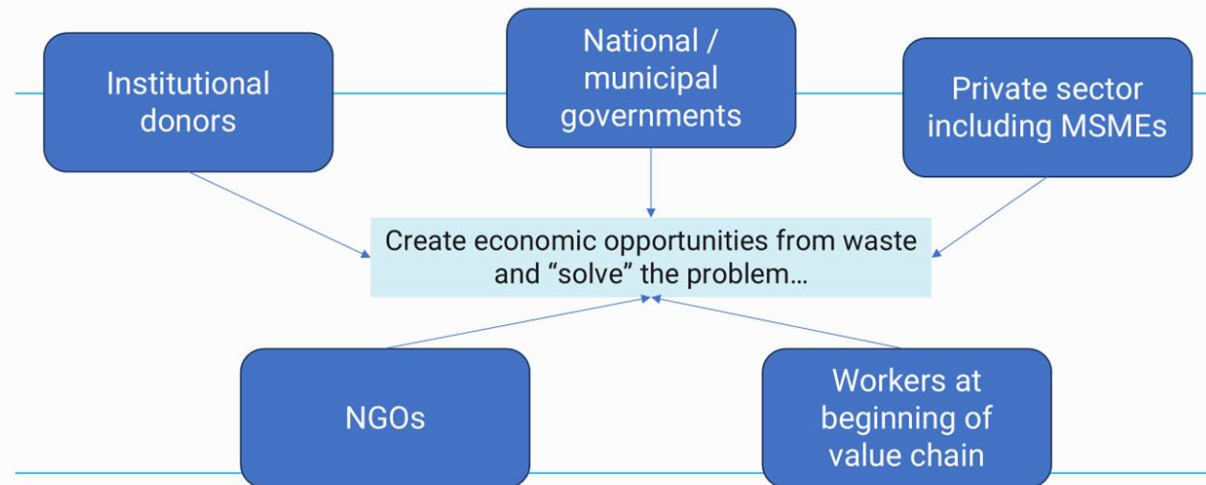
A: Support for the full implementation of national/city waste management strategies, incorporating circular economy approaches

B: Coherent waste data acquisition and sharing system

C: Further development of a waste knowledge sharing system based on the existing UNEP system

D: Expansion of regional mutual learning on Extended Producer Responsibility

E: Push for waste reduction at the value chains and at the households



F. Programme Strategic Direction

Supporting countries and cities in incorporating waste reduction, circular waste/resource management, public and private partnerships, material flow analysis and transparency through direct country support and through the regional partnerships and coalition

Taking an approach of good practices on the Extended Producer Responsibility – good practices sharing and mutual learning within UN regions

Promoting zero waste initiatives through good practices, lessons learn – before products or materials become waste, 1st to consider reducing waste in the production and consumption processes, 2nd reuse of products, third recycling. Disposal of waste is the final resort.



30 March – International Day on Zero Waste

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Photo by T.Nakamura, toy refurbish, recycling company, Kokkiri Gongjang,
Ulsan, the Republic of Korea (permission obtained)

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